

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to define component (ii) as an embodiment taken from cancelled Claim 2. Claim 20 has been amended to indicate that components (i) and (ii) are the same functionalized novolak resin as described on page 10 (lines 5-8).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

- I. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 9-20 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yates et al. (EP 1,101,607).
- II. Claims 3 and 5-8 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yates et al. in view of Hauck et al (6,517,988).
- III. Claims 3, 5, and 8 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yates et al. in view of Walls (5,169,897).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Rejection I:

The Office Action has cited Yates et al. as disclosing a heat sensitive composition comprising an acetal, IR absorber, novolak resin, and other polymers. It is argued that all of the rejected claims are obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention is patentable over the cited Yates et al. There is no teaching in Yates of Claim 1 requiring a combination of components (i) through (iii) in which component (ii) is a novolak functionalized with substituents capable of forming a four-center hydrogen bridge bond. Nothing in the Office Action points to teaching in Yates et al. that would render the present Claim 1 unpatentable. Moreover, there is no teaching in Yates et al. in which components (i) and (ii) comprise the same functionalized novolak (Claim 20). All of the claims are dependent upon amended Claim 1 and thus, all of the pending claims are patentable over Yates et al. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection II:

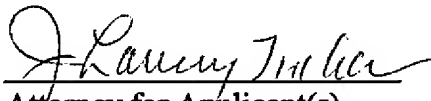
This rejection is moot in view of the amendment to Claim 1 since Claim 2 was not rejected over Yates et al. and Hauck et al. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection III:

Similarly to Rejection II, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested. A prompt and favorable action by the examiner is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.